Upcoming Events

• Summer Research Opportunity Program (SROP) Poster Presentations – August 13
  Location: Physics Research Building
  Students representing more than thirty institutions from across the nation will present posters on the research they have conducted at Ohio State.

• OSU Faculty and Staff Appreciation Week – August 17-21

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• NGSP Annual Retreat and Symposium – September 15, 2009
  Location: Highbanks MetroPark
  More details to follow

• NGSP New Student Orientation – September 18, 2009

Director’s Chair
The past year has been very rewarding in terms of program growth and excellence in neuroscience research and education. As outlined in this issue our students are publishing in top tier journals at an increasing rate, and continuing to receive both extramural and university support for their research. Our faculty continues to renew current grants and compete for new grants from NIH, NSF, and private foundations. Students and faculty are coming together in unique and creative ways to enhance recruitment efforts, to improve the curriculum, and to provide neuroscience education and outreach to the local community. Our program goals have been facilitated by working in synergy with the OSU Medical Center Neurosciences Signature Program, a cooperative effort that we expect will only grow in the next several years. All of this makes for a very exciting time for our program. The Co-Directors would like to express how much we have enjoyed working with everyone over the past three years. It has been challenging yet rewarding at the same time. Our term officially terminated at the end of June, and we will work hard to ensure a smooth transition after a new Director is selected at the NGSP graduate studies committee meeting in August. Once again we thank everyone for your participation, and we look forward to next year.

Sincerely,
Randy Nelson
John Oberdick

What a Year! Where do we go from here?

The 2008-2009 year began by welcoming six new students into the program and ended by conferring four neuroscience doctoral degrees. During the year, NGSP faculty and students were publishing papers, receiving awards, attending seminars, recruiting new students, and adapting to changes.

New students successfully completed their core courses and joined the labs of Dana McTigue, Balveen Kaur, Howard Gu, and Christine Beattie. Current students published 29 peer-reviewed papers. Six of the 29 were published in high impact factor journals such as the Journal of Neuroscience, the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (USA), Progress in Neurobiology, and Pharmacology & Therapeutics. Additionally, students received 9 travel awards, 6 Alumni Grants, 1 Young Investigator award, 1 American Heart Association Pre-Doctoral Fellowship, and 2 University Fellowships. The students are following in the footsteps of NGSP faculty such as Dr. Randy Nelson who received the University Distinguished Lecturer award and Alumni Award for Distinguished Teaching as well as Drs. Hojjat Adeli and John Sheridan who were named as Fellows of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). Four students graduated this year and are post-docs at universities such as Rockefeller and Drexel.

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With the commitment and success of NGSP students and faculty, the only answer is up!
Implementation of the new Student Information System (SIS) began summer 2009. SIS was created to integrate student processes into one system.

Why do we need an integrated system?

A fully integrated SIS will provide students, as well as staff and faculty, with more comprehensive data and more accurate and timely information across the various service areas. For students, the benefits of an integrated system will be experienced first-hand every time they access the new SIS Self Service web pages. These pages will allow applicants to view the status of their admissions application. The Self Service pages will also include “To do” lists of items that are required for enrollment and will contain active links, when applicable, to documents that are needed to complete the application or enrollment process. Once enrolled, students will also be able to update and change their permanent and school addresses as needed, and to better monitor and respond to deadlines that must be met to continue their education at the university. In short, Student Self Service pages will allow staff to communicate more efficiently with students, and for students to respond more quickly to inquiries from our Central Areas, thus providing a win-win system for our students and the university.

How will the new system affect me?

Students, faculty, and staff may have noticed a few changes this summer as the SIS was implemented. One noticeable change is the designated service center (Student Services Center and Faculty Center) available on Buckeye Link for Students and Faculty. The Student Services Center allows students to register for courses, review holds, view financial aid, and pay tuition. The Faculty Center allows faculty members to post grades, view class rosters, view advisee information and view weekly schedules. Other changes that affect students, faculty, and staff pertain to posting course permissions, scheduling courses, and how student evaluations of instruction (SEI’s) are handled. In regards to posting course permissions, the NGSP Program Administrator no longer has the ability to post permissions for students to enroll in courses. Students will now need to complete a Course Enrollment Form and submit it to the Graduate School in order to enroll in a course that requires permission. Behind the scenes, the new SIS system provides staff a longer time frame to schedule courses for each quarter. The extended time frame allows course instructors and staff to provide all the pertinent course information to students when their enrollment window opens. Also, faculty and students will both see a change in the SEI process. Beginning autumn quarter, paper SEI’s will no longer be distributed they will only be available electronically. Additionally, all instructors associated with a course will need to be listed in the new SIS system as that is the only way an SEI will be generated. The Testing and Evaluation office will no longer accept email requests to generate SEI’s for faculty not listed in the system.

Where do I obtain more information?

Reference guides and answers to frequently asked questions can be found on Buckeye Link.

Student Publications


Awards

Kristal Buchanan received a travel award from the Psychoneuroimmunology Research Society.

Emily Hochsner received a Graduate Student Travel Award at the OSUMC Research Day.

David Schimberg was awarded an Alumni Grant for Graduate Research and Scholarship from the OSU Graduate School.

Robin White received a Graduate Student Travel Award at the OSUMC Research Day.

Announcements

- NGSP Director Elections – NGSP faculty members received communication to nominate themselves or a colleague for the NGSP Directorship. The NGSP committee will vote on a new director at the next committee meeting scheduled in August.
- 2009-1010 NGSP Stipends – NGSP graduate student stipends will increase to $24,308 effective October 1, 2009.
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